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OSS MISSION GERMANY  
Czech Unit APO 655

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COUNTRY: Czechoslovakia REPORT NO.: LC-186  
SUBJECT: Final report on the DATE OF INFO: 8 August 1945  
Polish Brigade in  
Western Czechoslovakia PLACE OF ORIGIN: Praha  
SOURCE: Devon - 5 ETOUSA  
SUBSOURCE: Members of the Polish Brigade  
and Czechoslovak Military and  
Police officials.  
EVAL: B-2

1. New name. The Polish Brigade changed its original name of "Armia Krajowa, Grupa Operacyjna Zachod, Narodowych Sil Zbrojnych" (Home Army, Operational Group West, of the National Armed Forces) to "Brygada Swietokrzyska Narodowych Sil Zbrojnych" (Holy Cross, Brigade of the National Armed Forces.).

2. Strength: Total strength of the Brigade as of 31 July was 236 officers, 991 men, and 99 horses.

3. Attachment: According to a report of the Czechoslovak Liaison Officer, this Brigade was to be attached to the Polish Division of General Anders in Italy. (Armia Polska we Wloszech (A.P.W.) Polish Army in Italy formerly attached to the now dissolved British Eighth Army in Italy).

4. Additional background history of the Brigade as told by a Polish officer. The Polish Brigade is composed of Polish partisans from the Armia Krajowa (A.K., under London Control). The Brigade came into existence after the Warsaw insurrection at the time of General Bor Komorowski's surrender to the Germans. It was organized by its present CO, Colonel Dombrowski (Dambrowski) and its initial strength was about 1000 men. The Brigade did not surrender its arms but negotiated with the Germans using "high diplomacy" tactics by divulging to the Germans its fascist and anti-communist tendencies. The officer believes that these tactics saved the Poles from disarming or sending to the Eastern front to fight the Russians. Excuses such as bad equipment, lack of ammunition etc. were also used by the Poles to convince the Germans that they are not yet ready to fight. All these tactics were successfully employed by the Poles to mark time before being really used by the Germans. On the front once, near Lublin, the Germans did try to disarm the Poles but they met with strong opposition which resulted in a free passage order through Bohemia issued by the

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German Command.

In January 1945 the Brigade entered Czechoslovakia near Arnau with about 1,000 men and few horse drawn wagons in their possession. Parachuted English firearms and captured German or Russian weapons was all the armament the Poles had. In Arnau, the Poles were entrained and transported through Praha, Plzen, and Cheb to Karlovy Vary from where, "because of lack of billeting facilities", as it was told to the Poles by the Germans, they were rerouted back through Plzen Tabor and Jihlava to Vyskov in Moravia. The rapidly approaching Russian front caused their second rerouting again to Plzen where they finally were assigned a billeting area at Kamenny Ujezd near Rokycany (present American Russian demarcation line) at the end of March 1945.

According to the same Polish Officer, Poles never did fight the Russians but admit also that they did not fight the Germans either until a clash near Vsekary (see our LC-32, 35) on May 5th 1945.

5. Food. On July 19th 1945, the Polish Q.M. captain Zito-  
wecki, was instructed by the Czech District Administrative Com-  
mittee at Tachov in the American M.G.'s commanders office, that  
the Poles are not permitted to requisition food from local  
sources. Copies of this decision were sent to all neighboring  
Administrative Committees, the SNB (National Police Corps) det-  
achment at Bor and Czechoslovak Army units for enforcement.  
Despite this restraining order the Brigade's C.O. continued in  
requisitioning all needs in their billeting and neighboring areas.

6. In response to repeated complaints of the Czechoslovak  
Liaison officer and there representative of the District Admin-  
istrative Committees, Captain Zitowski, Polish Q.M., stated on  
July 24th to the Czech Liaison officer that he will continue re-  
quisitioning food supplies from local villagers and hopes that  
the Americans will be informed about this requisitioning as soon  
as possible, so they will be able to learn that what the Poles  
are getting from them is not sufficient to cover the Brigade's  
daily food requirements.

As a result of this action of the Polish QM, the Czech  
Liaison Officer requested an official intervention because of  
inability to come to terms with the Poles in a friendly way.

7. Additional billeting areas. On July 19th, the Signal  
Platoon of the Brigade (approx. 100 men) was moved to Pres  
(south of Bernartice). CO of the Platoon is Major Wolyniak,  
second in command is Lt. Waliszewski. At Sychrov 16 Polish  
civilians, mostly university graduates were billeted on July  
19th 1945.

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8. Desertions. from the Brigade were lately very frequent. On July 20th for instance three soldiers deserted a two or more on July 23rd. Previous desertions could not be checked because of secrecy with which the Polish field gendarmerie handled all cases.

9. Requests for local labor: Battalion CP's requested daily for local labor from mayors which they employed as kitchen stove wood choppers, K.P's, etc., inspite of critical manpower shortage for harvest work. In some villages Poles did offer their help in harvesting but demanded such exorbitant "wages" to be paid in nature of i.e., grain, that they had to be refused.

10. Countless illegal acts committed by members of the Brigade need not to be enumerated any more because the withdrawal of Poles to Germany. (Koburg ?)

In closing this report it is also worth while to mention that members of the Brigade wrecked beyond any repair all vehicles (about 40) which a few days ago were seen to be running and in good condition, and could have been used, especially by the Czechs who are so short on transport vehicles, some of which could have been used in the present harvest.

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